

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
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Press Contact: Gregg W. Bortz
610-861-9734 or (cell) 202-222-5118

HUD awards \$400,000 grant to Allentown Housing Authority

U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) today announced that the Allentown Housing Authority (AHA) has been awarded a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through its ROSS (Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency) Neighborhood Network program.

ROSS is a competitive grant program charged with addressing supportive services that will improve the overall quality of life for public housing residents. The ROSS Neighborhood Network program assists public housing authorities to establish or update community technology centers for public housing residents. In addition, funds will be used for work-readiness and education activities within the technology center for residents who utilize the service.

“The ongoing public investment in redeveloping Allentown’s public housing reflects both the Housing Authority’s outstanding stewardship and the city’s commitment to revitalizing neighborhoods,” Congressman Dent said. “I’m glad to help lend federal assistance to this project.”

The grant for Allentown coincides with the recent award of a \$20 million HOPE VI grant for the reconstruction of the Hanover Acres and Riverside Terrace developments, which is a key component of the ongoing revitalization of Allentown’s East Side. Mayor Ed Pawlowski and AHA

Executive Director Daniel Farrell expressed appreciation for Congressman Dent's efforts in securing the funds.

"This award complements our efforts to rebuild the Hanover Acres and Riverside Terrace sites into a productive, mixed-income development by providing improved access to educational and technological services for the residents," Mayor Pawlowski said.

"This grant is a vital part of our community and supportive services strategy for the HOPE VI program," Director Farrell said. "It will give residents access to the latest technology, educational courses, job training and computer education, on-site at the new community building."

When completed, the HOPE VI site will have 269 apartments and 53 owned homes for low- and moderate-income residents in Allentown. Construction of the development is divided into five phases, including four rental segments and one for home owners. The first two phases will provide 159 rental homes through a mix of tax credit and federal capital development funds, and are expected to be done by the end of 2007.

The balance of the project should be completed by 2010.

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